

## A Note on *Oreoscopus gutturalis*, De Vis.

BY GREGORY M. MATHEWS, F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

DURING his recent visit to England Mr. Dudley Le Souëf was entrusted by Mr. C. J. Wild, acting director, on behalf of the trustees of the Queensland Museum, with the type-specimens of several species described by Mr. C. W. De Vis, for comparison with the series in the British Museum.

Amongst these type-specimens was that of *Sericornis gutturalis* of De Vis (Proc. Roy. Soc., Queensland, vi., p. 244, 1889), a pretty little species discovered by Mr. Broadbent, near Herberton, in Northern Queensland. The bird turned out not to be a true *Sericornis*, and Mr. A. J. North described it under the new generic title of *Oreoscopus* (*Agricultural Gazette* of New South Wales, March, 1905, p. 247), describing at the same time the nest and eggs, forwarded to him by Mr. Elgner (*cf. Emu*, v., p. 47, 1905).

I have compared this type-specimen and another from Bartle Frere, collected by Mr. E. Olive, in the Hon. Walter Rothschild's collection with other Timeliine genera in the British Museum, and I find that the nearest ally to *Oreoscopus* seems to be the Indo-Malayan genus *Turdinulus*. Compared with *Turdinulus roberti* it is found to differ in its longer tail and distinctly scutellated, or rather plated, tarsus. In both genera the rictal bristles are very small and indistinct and confined to the gape.

Considering the species to be of more than ordinary interest, I have had much pleasure in having the accompanying plate (III.) prepared.

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## Description of a New Emu-Wren.

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U.

THROUGH Mr. Donald Macdonald's "Nature Notes," which are published weekly in *The Argus*, a new Victorian bird has been brought to light. Mr. C. H. M'Lennan, an observing bush naturalist, drew attention to an Emu-Wren frequenting the Mallee district. On being requisitioned for further particulars of the little bird, Mr. M'Lennan obligingly and promptly forwarded a skin for examination. At once it will be seen that the Mallee bird differs from the ordinary Emu-Wren of the more southern parts of Victoria and Tasmania by its general lighter colouring, by its smaller dimensions, except the bill, which is larger, and by the six loose feathers of the tail being less filamented. It appears to be an intermediate form between the common Emu-Wren and the Rufous Emu-Wren of North-West Australia. I have ventured to designate the new species *Stipiturus mallee*, or the Mallee Emu-Wren. Mr. M'Lennan, its discoverer, states that it is partial to the tufts of spinifex grass in the Mallee tracts, and is extremely difficult to detect.



J G Keulemans del et lith

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OREOSCOPIUS GUTTURALIS.